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THE PARIS PEACE CONGRESS AND THE PROSPECTS OF WAR.

The Peace Congress that met in Paris, June 23-27, is entitled to the sympathy of all honest men. It aims at creating a public opinion in Europe adverse to international war. If two, three or four peoples detest war, their feeling on the subject is not sufficient to avert conflict. If other nations with military traditions and armed forces look forward to conquests or revenge, yet it is something that the passions of belligerency have died down in certain parts of Europe. Nobody now anticipates that Spain or Holland, Portugal or Sweden, once meddlers in almost every contest, will rush into the next new war. The rulers and the ruled in these countries are quite content with their present frontiers.

BETTER PEACE PROSPECTS.

It may be said that the Powers named are peaceful because they are not great; but a desire to keep the peace is discernible in other directions. No one doubts that the abiding anxiety of all English Cabinets [Lord Palmerston's (?)—Ed.] for at least the last fifty years has been to keep out of all honorably avoidable wars, and that in this feeling they have only reflected the popular sentiment of the nation. Italy would be only too ready to diminish her costly armaments if she could be quite secured against an attack from France. In Germany the dangers of war are too serious to allow any of her Princes or statesmen to rush into new conflicts with light hearts. Austria has been a lover of peace for two generations and has never drawn the sword except in self-defence. Turkey is tremulously anxious to be let alone. Thus we see the principles of the Peace Congress practically accepted by the majority of the Sovereigns and peoples of Europe. At the same time the world witnesses the note of preparation in all these lands, and we are aware there are certain provocations which would force them into what may prove the fiercest and the most costly struggle ever waged by man. Thus the aversion of more than three-fifths of Europe to the horrors and perils of war is practically nullified. If there still remain great military Powers unconverted, one dreaming of future conquests, the other of a possible revenge, the old tradition of the world that war was the sport of Kings, that the nation which fought best was the greatest, and that the soldier's was a glorious society, and arms a glorious trade, has passed away to a great extent.

THE SITUATION AS IT STANDS.

Then there are conflicts that cannot be avoided. We believe that on the whole the friends of peace may congratulate themselves on the progress they have made. Four of the Great Powers, England, Germany, Austria and Italy, are honestly anxious for a prolongation of the present truce. The alliances that exist between the three latter are for defence, not offence; and so have a tendency to avert war. Russia is no doubt a Power that has not given in her adhesion to the principles of peace, and her move southward or westward is probably only a question of time. But to measure the progress of the world in this respect we must remember that a hundred years ago, and for centuries preceding, all the Powers were imbued with the spirit of aggressiveness now attributed to Russia and France alone amongst the Powers. Then every ruler was ready to make or break alliances,

to fight for territory, to snatch advantages, and to declare war at short or long notice, with or without provocation. There was no public opinion against war, neither national nor European. There was no restraint on the personal ambition of rulers.

THE CENTRAL ALLIANCE.

At no time in the history of the world was there such a league as that which now binds Germany, Austria and Italy, an alliance that has no attack or acquisition for its aim, but that simply contemplates reciprocal assistance in national defence. Nor can we omit from the account the evident caution of the present Czar, who hesitates to plunge his Empire into adventures, and has gained more in the Balkans by masterly inactivity than he lost by the fussy meddlings of General Kaulbars and other Agents in Bulgaria. As to France, she is an unknown quantity. One never knows when she may under new leadership precipitate a struggle. But one hopes for the best in witnessing her delight in the success of an Exhibition of all the arts that war throws back, and that peace alone can encourage and promote.—*London Telegraph*.

THE TWO CONGRESSES AT PARIS.

The addresses made, the papers read, the resolutions adopted and indeed the main outcome of the two gatherings tended to this chief practical end—the demand for treaties of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, and the United States and France. The conditions under which an International Code and Court of Arbitration may be eventually established, presented problems too complex and vague to be successfully grappled with by large Congresses, at least in the present stage of opinion on the subject. But it was otherwise in reference to the Treaties. Here the matter under discussion is narrowed in, as to one practical point. And, further, there is an increasing agreement of opinion in regard to it, amongst people and statesmen on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Paris Congresses have given a distinct impetus to this movement and object. And in so far as popular enthusiasm is a most material element for the success of legislative measures, the interest awakened by the General Congress, in this matter, was perhaps as valuable a contribution to the desired end, as the deliberations of the Parliamentary Congress a few days later. In particular, Mr. Evans Darby, Rev. R. B. Howard, and M. Passy, as representing the three elder Peace Societies of Europe and America, were able to bring to the discussions the resources of information and counsel collected by those experienced organizations during a long term of years and by means of widely-extended correspondence and conference. And as to the element of enthusiasm, not the least contribution consisted in the fervor of the Italian representatives, who came fresh from the vigorous and hopeful Peace agitation which has lately been awakened in their own country.

Altogether, the recent Congresses were occasions of deep interest and profound significance to those who were privileged to take part in them. They have cemented pleasant friendships and freshly stimulated many workers in the great work of International Peace and Arbitration.—*London Herald*.